

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 WELLIN 01898 202245Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /065 W

-----210026Z 113144 /64

R 200444Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3271

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 1898

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, EFIN, NZ

SUBJECT: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL INCREASES OVER MARCH

1. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST FIGURES RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, THE FOOD GROUP INDEX OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR APRIL 1977 IS 1422 (BASE: DECEMBER QUARTER 1974 EQUALS 1000) VS 1418 FOR MARCH 1977. THIS AMOUNTS TO AN INCREASE OF 0.3 PERCENT IN THE AVERAGE LEVEL OF FOOD PRICES BETWEEN MARCH 1977 AND APRIL 1977. FOOD PRICES IN APRIL 1977 WERE 14.8 PERCENT HIGHER THAN IN APRIL 1976.

2. THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS CONTRIBUTING TO THE RISE IN THE ALL FOOD GROUP INDEX (AND THEIR POINTS CONTRIBUTION) WERE AS FOLLOW: MEALS (2.7 POINTS), CARRY OUT FOODS (1.8 POINTS), CANDY AND LOOSE CHOCOLATES (1.4 POINTS), BEVERAGES (0.9 POINTS), AND EGGS (0.8 POINTS).

3. THE PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH IN THE CPI FOOD GROUPS STARTING JANUARY 1977 PRESENTS A PICTURE OF A CONTINUOUS AND SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN THE RATE OF INCREASE, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT RUN.

INCREASE OVER

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MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH
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JANUARY 1977	3.3 PERCENT
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FEBRUARY 1977	1.8 PERCENT
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MARCH 1977	0.7 PERCENT
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APRIL 1977	0.3 PERCENT
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SELDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009